DARLINGTON REVIEW

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online @ www.darlingtonreview.com.au

DARLINGTON THEATRE PLAYERS

PRODUCTION OF

Disney

NEWSIES JR.

Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Jack Feldman

Book by
Harvey Fierstein

Based on the Disney Film
Written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

Originally Produced on Broadway by
Disney Theatrical Productions

FEBRUARY 16 - MARCH 2, 2024

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 2pm

MARLOO THEATRE

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Directed by
Rachel Vonk

Musical Direction by
Chris McRae

Vocal Direction by
Rebecca McRae

Choreographed by
Michelle Ezzy

Disney's Newsies JR.
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Material for each edition of the Review must be submitted before 5pm on the 20th of the preceding month. Please keep Letter to the Review brief and include your name, address and phone number. Contact details will not be printed and you can request that a pseudonym rather than your name be used. Letters must be emailed to: editorial@darlingtonreview.com.au or placed in the Review box in the Post Office by the deadline date of the 20th of the month.

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EDITORIAL

Wishing all our readers a very Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of the 2024 Darlington Review.

Last year at this time I interviewed three young people to find out how Darlington had influenced the inspiring things that they each were doing. This year I have continued this theme with another young person, known to many of you from her efficient and smiling persona working at The Hive, who is now travelling and working overseas.

Kate

Many of you will have known Kate Carter from her role at The Hive as front of House and then as Assistant Manager. Kate headed off last year to follow her dream of travelling and working in Europe. I caught up with her via Instagram to ask her how it was going, and specifically to seek out her motivation and her processes in achieving this. This is what she said:

"I have always known travel was going to be a part of my life. I'm naturally a very curious soul and having travelled most of Australia as a child I knew going into the wider world was something that would nourish that curiosity. Originally, I wanted to travel after high school, and I hadn't really considered something more long term until Covid made me more conscious of 'seizing the moment'.

"Europe was a must to me but it felt huge and extremely daunting. I voiced this ambition to my Aunty and she said 'Go!' Our conversation reminded me that life is short and opportunities often pass us by because we tell ourselves we can always do it in the future. I had been working in hospitality for the past two years and, having learnt that those skills are useful anywhere, I decided if I was gonna spend the money getting to the other side of the world I was going to do it properly. What better way to experience life abroad than to truly live and breathe it? I thought setting up a little life would show me more than the tourist glimpse. Work would lead to friends and friends would lead to new adventures and that has been my learning; take life and live it to its full especially when it scares you.

"The first thing I did in preparation was actually to quit my job. I was visiting family in Victoria and before I could lose my nerve, I picked up the phone and told Frankie (the owner and Manager of The Hive then) that I would be leaving the following year to travel the world. That was terrifying and thrilling all at the same time. I was up for a promotion as assistant manager at the Hive since at that point I was still 'front of House' and I was choosing

Planning time.

to potentially throw that opportunity away to go somewhere completely unknown to do something I knew well but with complete strangers and in one of the biggest, most intense cities in the world - London.

"My friend and workmate Kirsten, an already experienced traveller, was probably the most instrumental part in making this possible. I was so aware of how little I knew about travel and how quickly things could go very, very bad. I reached out and asked if she would participate in this crazy adventure and at least help me set my life up and not only did she say yes, she suggested a European tour first, and before we knew it, we had 10 stops on our list and plane tickets in our hands.

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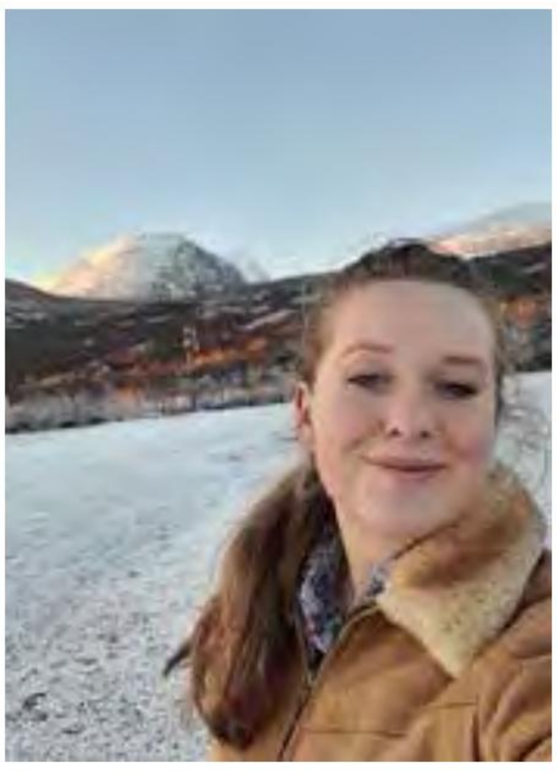

Far left: Kate and Kirsten in Vienna. (Middle) View from the window, Inverlochy Castle where Kate currently is working, and Kate in the frost near Fort William, Scotland.

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"Kirsten showed me how to start. Showed me travel apps, currency conversion, introduced me to the Eurail Pass and many more tools that I now use without even thinking about it.

"Work I knew wouldn't be too hard to find. My Dad has always said, if you have 'the gift of the gab' all you need to do is get through the front door, the rest you can learn on the job.

"I actually went through an agency for accommodation. The Working Holiday Club helped me with my visa application, banking, sim cards, Ni numbers and signing up for the NHS. They secured me a shared room in a long-term hostel in central London and that was a life saver. It meant when Kirsten went home I was surrounded by young, like minded travellers who were all in the same boat as me and looking to make friends. I got an interview 30 mins after moving into that very room and by the end of the day was employed by Dishoom, Covent Garden, arguably the busiest restaurant in the UK.

"Things to avoid. I think travel wise I would say to fly only for convenience. Trains have been my main mode of transport and through them I have been able to see so many beautiful panoramic views that would have been missed sky high. I would avoid being too rigid in your plans, be flexible. You don't know who you might meet or the opportunities you may be given. Flights can be changed but stories can't as cheesy as that sounds!

"I am so glad I'm doing this. It's scary but in the best way possible. Every now and again I'm hit with this wave of pride and my inner voice going, 'hell yeah, I've chosen a pretty cool life'.

"The best part I think is learning to trust myself, learning to be boldly spontaneous and leaning into the 'you only live once' mentally. The people I have met has been one of the most amazing things. I say I'm here, travelling solo but I've never once truly been alone because of the incredible people I've met along the way."

In the dark streets shining ...

The everlasting light of smiles and voices of all who attended the 2023 Darlington Carols by Candlelight on the small oval outside the Hall on Christmas Eve.

The fear that it might not happen was once again turned to hope and joy by the wonderful Whisson family who clearly value this community gathering enough to ensure that this event goes on. Thanks to them for providing MC and music by Glen, core singing and for Earnshaws and the Darlington Review for covering song sheet production and sound system by Fenton Oldmeadow. The hall looked beautiful again and an added attraction this year was the Luminaria, or paper lanterns, created by local children and lining the garden edge in front of the hall. Tania Whisson had encouraged the children to make a Christmas wish for someone special and draw it on the paper bag placed in the "lantern lane" so that when it was dark the wish would float up to the stars and twinkle down on the ones they loved.

A good gathering of voices went up onto the 'stage' to lead the singing and there were plenty of children able to be encouraged up for the usual rounds of Rudolph and other children's songs. I especially enjoyed watching and hearing a group of Dads directly in front of me on the grass who sang gustily and tunefully and mostly drowned out even the loudest talkers. It seems that the community are thoroughly enjoying the simple approach of bringing a picnic for the first hour and focusing on singing or watching/listening for the second. A lovely occasion and part of so many families' Christmas Tradition over the years.

Light a Lantern
Make a wish for those you love
Little lantern clear and bright
Please have my special wish tonight
And when it's dark, please let it fly
High above into the sky
To sit among the stars above
And twinkle down on those I love

The Hive

Many of you will have already read Frankie's social media releases informing us that The Hive changed ownership, as of December 31st, almost three years on from the time when Frankie and Duncan took ownership and Frankie became Managing Director. Since The Hive (formerly The Pines) is such a central hub of village life in Darlington, I contacted Frankie and asked her some further questions, hoping to capture what The Hive has meant to her during this intensive time.

Frankie

1. What first attracted you to take on the café?

"Initially we were attracted to the property itself and could see lots of potential. The cafe wasn't part of the plan initially! We were doing our due diligence on the viability of the investment property and only then considered buying the cafe too. I was attracted to the cafe as I saw an opportunity to pick up some work close to home that would provide flexibility for our large family. We also saw it as an opportunity for our kids to learn some great skills and work close to home and serve their community (without having to navigate drives up and down the hill - how was that going to work with five kids!). Whilst I hadn't worked in hospitality for over 20+ years, I had been taught by one of the best in the industry in terms of what hospitality meant. I felt I could bring that early hospitality experience, my business skills and foodie passion together to the venture and give it a go!"

2. Where did the name "The Hive" come from?

"Choosing a name was so much harder than we expected! Harder than naming our children. We went through hundreds of options... When we thought of The Hive, it was an instant 'hell yes!' It embraced so much of what we were looking for... a connection to nature, a sense of community, a feeling of high energy... that central spot that the whole community was drawn to and could buzz around. The fact that the food was as delicious as honey and the name connected with our street address BEEnong Road was just the icing on the cake."

3. What were some of your goals and did you have the opportunity to achieve them?

"There were a few goals:

1) To bring 'hospitality' in the true sense of the word to this venue - the friendly and generous reception of our guests. Every person that walked through the doors was to be treated as a family member where nothing was too much effort to make their time with us enjoyable.

2) I was very keen to ensure the operation was all whole food based - this was much harder than I anticipated. I was breaking new ground and it was hard ground. Distributors didn't understand what I was seeking or if they did understand it wasn't financially viable for them to assist me. I didn't have enough size or clout to make it happen in the way that I had hoped. So many insights here!

3) Provide employment for locals and ensure our staff were well looked after and happy. Happy staff = happy guests.

4) Function space - provide another venue close to home for Darlington locals to celebrate their important milestones - we were honoured to cater for engagements, special birthdays, weddings, christenings, Christmas parties, professional development days, end of year celebrations. This was my favourite!

5) Bring a dinner service to Darlington was next on the cards - I didn't have time to achieve this one... but perhaps it may be on the cards in the future with the new owners?"

4. What was the hardest part?

"The hardest part in this venture was undoubtedly the lock downs and being mandated not to serve all of our community. This broke our hearts and we found a way to serve them anyway, delivering across the road to the park. This was our community! The follow-on impact was very difficult, being able to secure supplies, staff shortages, managing a work force with COVID, inflationary pressures and still making sure the show was able to go on a daily basis. It was also very difficult to balance community wants (ie longer hours) with prudent business decisions and the well-being of staff. This was something that we were always working towards."

5. What was the best part?

"The best parts were:

- Serving the community and being a part of their everyday lives and special occasions and seeing our guests embrace our staff as one of their own family members.

- It was an absolute privilege to build and lead a team of outstanding staff members and helping each staff member in their learning and growth journey whilst simultaneously helping facilitate their dreams and goals.

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- Working together with other Perth Hills based venues and organisations to put the Perth Hills on the map. Encouraging visitors to come and explore Perth's pristine backyard, enjoy the trails, waterfalls, hikes, serenity and views."

6. What next for you?

"I will take a little bit of time to consider what is next. My other business, Additive Free Kids, was very neglected during the time I had the Hive (I severely underestimated what it would take to run this venture!). I am passionate about quality food and producers and expect there may be an opportunity to use my financial skills and hospitality experience to assist these businesses - so many people don't like numbers!

I expect I will continue to work with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in providing input and developing the Perth Hills strategy further. The Perth Hills is an exceptional place with a vibrant community and passionate producers set against beautiful scenery that deserves to be showcased like the Swan Valley or Margaret River."

And So To The New Owners …

The new owners of The Hive (and they plan to keep the name) are a business partnership between PK (Prakesh), who is the existing chef, and his family friend Ranjana, who will be the new Managing Director.

On one of those consecutive 40 degree days in January I was able to catch up with them under the air conditioner to ask them a few community interest questions. Expecting to focus on business questions, I found Ranjana to be so friendly and community minded that I have their permission to tell you also about who they are and why, in my view, they are going to be a great fit for taking on this Darlington café!

PK and Ranjana's families first met in Perth about six years ago when they had each migrated here from different small towns in Nepal. They have already perhaps faced their greatest challenges – learning English more fluently and learning about Australian culture and particularly food. Ranjana says that she has come such a long way from the point at which she did not know what ham or bacon were! And no, they have not climbed up towards Everest or K2 but Ranjana says that she might have to next time she visits her homeland since everyone always asks about that as soon as they know that she is from Nepal! Their families became friends here in Australia and they each have a child of the same age, six. PK's son and Ranjana's daughter are class mates at their school in Cannington and are great friends.

PK has had extensive experience working as a chef for 17 years to date, overseas and in Australia. His experience includes 5-star establishments in India and 10 years working in Australia. Ranjana says that in her opinion he is absolutely the best chef she has come across and describes him as something of a perfectionist in the way, for example, he plates food – an important strength in today's restaurant industry. PK wishes to continue his busy role as chef – he is happy to leave the business side to Ranjana.

It was PK who first encouraged Ranjana to come out and see The Hive and she says that the moment she walked in and saw the standard of the food presentation, and picked up the community vibe of The Hive she wanted to be part of it. She was further very impressed by the diligence with which Frankie had been buying only the best, healthiest ingredients and having everything made from scratch. Ranjana describes the cooking and baking at The Hive as being at fine family standard, rather than the usual maximum profit-making approach of the hospitality industry that she has mostly observed previously, where quality is cut in order to be more profitable.

Ranjana, as a result of the government visa requirements, had to go and work in the outer Sydney area for three years and she worked in a community-based café in the Highlands area above Wollongong. She says that it was the type of place where customers would get to know you well and might offer to help,

for example, to look after your children for you while you are busy – which sounds not unlike Darlington!!

Their short-term goals for The Hive are to keep everything much as it is. Challenges include communicating with the current 22 staff (that number surprised me too!) and dealing with over 20 suppliers for all the fine ingredients and produce that they use. She told me that they have no plans to change this healthy food approach but they do already have some thoughts about offering, for example, some special-day booked in advance evening dinners, e.g. for Mother's day. The kitchen is being renovated as part of Frankie's handover and once this has been completed they will look at the menu and see what might be able to be added.

Ranjana is working in the café full time and has the desire for her and PK to do everything themselves in terms of the business management and the day to day running. She has another business but it is a take-away which is easily run by the staff who work there. She wants to be here at the Hive. One of her goals is to be part of the Darlington Community and feel accepted. She feels that there is so much good energy here and is keen to take The Hive onward to be its best self! As a first-time owner she is very excited about that, and so, I think, should we be.

Mundaring Firefighters School

Making the choice to live in the Perth Hills, which is made so beautiful by our daily proximity to trees and the forest wildlife, we know that we all need to take on the responsibility of bushfire preparedness of our properties.

Thankfully, many people also take on volunteering in some capacity in our Volunteer Firefighter groups to help us all in bushfire incidents. Neil Hawkins has 40 years of experience firefighting across the State in a variety of roles and is Shire of Mundaring Fire Training Coordinator and Mundaring Firefighters School Chairperson. After a few foiled attempts in the very busy 'Storm' week I was eventually able to sit down and talk with him in the Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade headquarters.

As a teacher (just retired!) myself, I was particularly interested to learn about the Mundaring Firefighters School that serves our Hills Communities and beyond with training courses for enrolled firefighters. This is the only known volunteer run training school accredited by DFES in Australia!

The existence of this training facility is thanks to the pro-activeness of a group of volunteer firefighters from Darlington and Mundaring in the early 90s, who felt that the single training option at that time of travelling to Kensington to train, and then bringing the knowledge back to their crews, was insufficient. By the mid 90s they had resources and equipment and by 1996 were running out of the old Hillston Anglican Boys' Farm buildings in Stoneville, where their practical practice area was the old piggery and hot fire training involved setting bales of straw alight in the old pig shed!! By 2022 they had moved into their current site in the old Stoneville Daycare building, which better meets current health and safety workplace standards! It is a state-of-the-art training facility and in talking to Neil I became very quickly impressed by just what this group of volunteers had started and by the high standard being achieved there.

Sixteen different courses are offered, four of which were created by Mundaring volunteers specifically for Mundaring and have now being developed by DFES for broader use. An average of over 30 courses occur each year. Since 2012 the Mundaring Firefighter School have trained over 2,657 students. The quality of the training is widely recognised and now the Mundaring based training assessors are in demand to run courses across the State. To become an active firefighter, volunteers need to have done some of the key accredited courses through the fire school or DFES and are then often given experience at, for example, hazard reduction burns, before attending a wild fire.

This whole enterprise feels to me like another great example of Hills people pulling together to achieve better outcomes for the Hills and broader community.

And what about our own responsibilities as property owners or dwellers? I asked Neil about some of the key things that he personally considers important.

1. Have a fire plan. Only plan to stay if really well prepared and, as far as possible, with a realistic sense of what you are going to need to do and how it is going to feel.
2. There is not going to be a fire truck at every house. Even if there is a fire truck there, Neil says fire behaves differently amongst houses than it does at the bush fire front: swirling winds, no clear fire front, embers from multiple directions, lack of visibility, hazards such as exploding chemicals and gas.
3. Create asset protections zones. There are numerous websites giving examples of this, but the key concept is to break up the vegetation on the approach to the house so that there is not a clear run for the fire.

4. Go to DFES workshops regarding keeping properties clear e.g. clearing understorey, taking in furniture and observe the Shire regulations regarding fire breaks, gutters etc.
5. Do not just assume that rooftop sprinklers, that could be substandard, will protect your home. If there is insufficient flow rate to wet your roof continuously, or the correct droplet size to absorb radiant heat across windows etc, they will not be effective.

There is so much information available to us regarding all of these things and I have just written up a snippet of key points. There is further valuable information from the Shire and from the Darlington group further on in this Review. Also, go to DFES, The Shire, and multiple other sources for full information on the points mentioned here. And create that Fire Plan!

Marking 40 Year Commitment

On 16th December, on one of those many stiflingly hot days of the school holidays, the Darlington Review extended community and some of Trea Wiltshire's family members met at the hall for what was an amazingly well-kept secret – the unveiling of a seat to signify her 40 years commitment to being the main editor of the Darlington Review. The beautiful work was of course constructed by the very talented Darlington stonemasons Anthony and Jacob Muir of AM Stonework. Through a conspiracy led by Chris Durrant and including Trea's daughter and son-in-law who were visiting Trea from overseas, the work and the reason behind it were kept secret. South Ward Councillor and Mundaring Shire Deputy President Trish Cook said the following words:

"Good afternoon and welcome to you all on this wonderful occasion.

Donated by the Darlington community in appreciation of writer
Trea Wiltshire
a dedicated advocate for this village, who has been writing its history and telling its stories
in the Darlington Review for over 40 years

On behalf of the generous local Darlington Community gathered today, including the business advertisers and your colleagues and co-conspirators at the Darlington Review, we wish to acknowledge you, to thank you and to show our appreciation for your tireless contributions for our beloved little village Darlington – both from your role as Editor of the Darlington Review for over four decades, and as a much loved community person who is always up for a chat or debrief.

Trea - you know this community better than anyone. You see us, you get us. Our groups, our businesses, our individuals. You have kept us connected by telling our stories and sharing our experiences through the now legendary Darlington Review. You have delivered the news with understanding, insight and compassion always striving for truth, fairness and integrity in your work. You inspire us to be tolerant of others' viewpoints, to rally to a good cause, and to be considerate of our cherished local groups and their projects and activities. You are a journalist of the highest order and as such our community has been enriched by your influence. You are THE original influencer – long before influencers were a thing…

You, as one of our many beautiful community elders, deserve formal recognition of our appreciation.

So today Trea we wish to say this;

WE SEE YOU

WE THANK YOU

and WE LOVE YOU.

Long may we all sit together and chat and debrief on Trea's Seat!"

White Lodge

Some readers may have been taken by surprise, as I was, to come around the corner on Brook Road and find an empty space where White Lodge had stood previously. Since this house had some history behind it, I contacted the new owners (as of 2020) and also did a little delving into that history.

Watch this space for interesting information about plans for a new house from the current owners which will be featured in the March or April editorial.

Meanwhile, Lyn, from Darlington History group, has outlined the history of the owners of this site dating back to the original vineyard subdivision in 1918. In the History Group page in this edition she shows that the property was built in 1940, with the rates notices being evidence of this. By 1954 it was owned by Findlay and Freda Kidman, which is what piqued my interest in the property. Findlay Kidman, who lived here in Darlington until he was over 100 years old, and who has a seat opposite the property on Station Reserve named in his honour, was a great-nephew of 'Cattle King' Sir Sydney Kidman, who according to his biographer, Jill Bowen, at his death in 1935 owned 90 stations covering 336,698 square kilometres or about one fifth of Australia.

Sir Sidney Kidman's story is a classic Australian pioneer story. He left his home town in South Australia at the age of 13 with 5 pounds on a one-eyed horse named Cyclops (of course). Apart from his amazing business success he was knighted in 1921 for his work and provision in support of the war effort and retired in 1927. There are at least two biographies: The Cattle King by Ion Idress and Kidman, The Forgotten King by Jill Bowen that make a really interesting read. In 2016-17 there was much political wrangling over the sale of the Kidman business holdings.

The Darlington History group website has a very interesting memoir article on descendant Findlay Kidman, who was a wool buyer by trade, and who explains that he and his second wife

bought White Lodge without even coming inside, saying "This'll do"! This was when Brook Road was the main thoroughfare from Darlington to Glen Forrest with Glen Road ending at the Post Office. (A group of beautiful gums now close that access through from that end of Brook Road to the Post Office). He describes buying most of his groceries from Owen's store (now Darlington Liquor and Gourmet), meat from a butcher in Greenmount and milk being delivered to the door by Arthur Dall.

Findlay and his wife Freda made a lot of alterations to the house and to the ¾ acre garden, which falls away very steeply from the envelope of the original house. They carted soil and rock from the nearby quarry for walls and steps. They planted trees and landscaped, as anyone who looked around the house when it came up for sale would have seen. They extended the house, which was on three levels, to the front, side and rear. I walked around the house in 2020 and was very aware of the aging uneven floor levels that threatened to tip you towards the windows and that steep slope behind the house. I saw that there also needed to be asbestos removal before demolition. I look forward to hearing, in the next Review edition, the story of what the new owners have planned for the next phase in the history of this home-site.

Manna Wellness Darlington

It's exciting times for Darlington's local wellness centre at 20 Brook Road, as it rebrands to Manna Wellness from Hills Psychology and Wellness to unify its Guildford and Darlington centres. In conjunction with its rebrand 2024 will see the centre offer some exciting new services such as occupational therapy, chiropractic, physiotherapy, remedial massage, yoga, barre Pilates, clinical Pilates and group therapy.

Starting out as Hills Psychology and Counselling, Manna's clinical psychologist, Greg, has been providing psychology services in Darlington for five years. Greg, Rebecca Fergie (Clinical Psychologist Registrar), Antonia Momber (Child Psychiatry) and Cassie Caratti (Play Therapist) will be joined by some highly experienced practitioners, all previous directors of their own private clinics or team leaders in Perth hospitals.

Stephanie Clark-Jennings, Senior Occupational Therapist
Stephanie is our Senior Occupational Therapist providing children and adults with functional capacity assessments and support for difficulties in everyday tasks, with a special interest in ADHD. With a Masters degree in Advanced Occupational Therapy and post-graduate qualifications in education, Stephanie also maintains a role as Team Leader at St John of God Hospital and has extensive experience in both the private and public sectors.

Dr Michelle Fitzpatrick, Chiropractor
Michelle is a highly experienced Chiropractor with experience running her own clinic in regional WA and is skilled in accurately diagnosing and treating a variety of neuro-musculoskeletal complaints, including neck and lower back pain/stiffness, acute disc injuries, headaches, scoliosis, and extremity complaints. She also has a special interest in paediatrics and pregnancy.

Lauren May, Senior Physiotherapist
Lauren is an experienced manual therapist with a Masters of Physiotherapy, training in CBT and nearly two decades of experience working in and running busy private practices. Lauren offers second opinions for clients with previous unsuccessful physiotherapy journeys and her specialty areas and clinical interests include headaches and neck/back pain, TMJ (jaw) pain/dysfunction, clinical exercise rehabilitation, women's health and strength training during peri/menopause and post-surgery rehabilitation and sports injuries.

Manna Wellness looks forward to continuing to provide a holistic health and wellness service to the Darlington community and is appreciative of the local community support its received over the past few years, as Hills Psychology and Wellness.

Rising Indigenous Artist KAYPS Awarded the 2023 Robert Juniper Award for the Arts

In a strong field of extraordinary creative talent, the Robert Juniper Award for the Arts is delighted to announce Jett Bieundurry as the 2023 scholarship award recipient. Jett's musical versatility, steadfast commitment to artistic expression, and the thorough and thoughtful approach outlined in his project proposal impressed all the adjudicators. While not mandatory according to the award criteria, the judges believed that Bieundurry's project had the potential to not only improve his personal skills but also create a ripple effect by enriching his community. They unanimously selected him after an intense evaluation of an exceptional lineup of finalists.

Growing up in the Perth Hills, the former Helena College student's journey into he world of music commenced in his early years, nurtured by his mother Donna and father Clifton, a seasoned performer on international stages. Bieundurry's passion for music ignited during his primary school years, with him much preferring to create music rather than doing his homework! A testament to his dedication to creating music is in his strict daily regime, which started around the age of 12 - rising early each morning to lay down beats and pen some lyrics before heading to school, returning to his creative pursuits after school was finished. Bieundurry's early dedication has seemingly set the stage for a lifelong journey in music, one that he is keen to embrace.

Despite being only 18 years old, Bieundurry has a discography that spans multiple bodies of work, including a featured EP on prominent Spotify playlists in 2023. His 2021 album "Beauty Among the Chaos" not only resonated with audiences but also earned the prestigious honour of gracing the cover of Apple Music HipHop.

The accolades continued as Jett/Kayps secured the Indigenous Initiative Award from the Triple J Unearthed competition in 2021. A finalist in the same competition that year, he maintained momentum by securing a spot in the national competition in 2022. In 2022 Kayps took to the stage at the Nannup Music Festival, enthralling his audience.

In 2023 Bieundurry embarked on the Mushroom Records First Nations Pathway writers programme in Melbourne, showcasing not only his musical capabilities but also his commitment to nurturing emerging talent. During his school holidays, Bieundurry volunteered to lead a songwriting and music production workshop for Indigenous young men at the Koya Foundation.

Beyond his musical achievements, Jett Bieundurry envisions inspiring First Nations youth nationwide and he is dedicated to being an active participant in making this happen. Bieundurry says "My purpose for creating music stems from my passion in wanting to inspire First Nations youth around our country in expressing themselves via the creative arts. In addition to extending my skillset and knowledge in both the creation and the production aspects of music, I also aim to be able to perform my music at festivals and venues across Australia which will help me to create connections in communities and with young people."

Songwriter, Musician, Producer Jett Bieundurry (left) awarded $10,000.

Jett's multifaceted approach extends beyond music, with a commitment to developing skills in video production to complement his music. He knows that dynamic multimedia presentations will enhance his storytelling and help him to reach a wider audience. His award application project centres around collaborating with videographer Joel Baker to create four videos of four songs that he aims to release during the summer of 2023-2024.

Jett's unwavering dedication to his skill development, and his ongoing social commitment to his community positions him as a rising force in the Australian music scene, ready to make a lasting impact with his upcoming release and into the future.

Birthright

Residents on Stone Crescent have recently received exciting notification about the filming of 'Birthright' from 29th January to 1st March.

The film won the 2022 West Coast Visions production grant of $750,000 with the aim of taking it to the big screen! Written and produced by two West Australian women, Zoe Pepper, and Cody Greenwood, the plot involves a young professional couple (Cory and Jasmine), who are expecting a child, Cory loses his job, and they have to move back in with their wealthy parents.

Cory becomes fixated on his parents' wealth and the plot darkens! Screen Australia quote Cody Greenwood as saying,"Zoe has let loose with Birthright. It is a dark, funny and wild ride. It's a timely story that taps into a conversation about the housing affordability crisis and a powerplay between Baby Boomers and their Millennial children."

Climate Action

The Commissioner for Children and Young People has invited all WA's children and young people under 18 to share their views on the environment through an on-line survey.

This link has come to us through Ailsa at the Perth Hills Climate Change Interest Group: https://www.ccyp.wa.gov.au/our-work/projects/your-environment-your-say-survey/

North Stoneville Update

This continues to be relevant to Darlington since the proposed siting of a township in rural North Stoneville could set a precedent that would change the nature of the Perth Hills.

On 7th December the West Australian Planning Committee resolved to refuse the planning application from Satterley for the North Stoneville development after the Department of Planning received 2,000 public submissions against the proposed development and only 29 in support of it.

This however does NOT yet bring to a conclusion this battle with the developers that is now in its fourth decade!! The matter will return to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) on 2nd February and Satterley then has to decide whether to withdraw or proceed with his application, which will go to a final hearing with SAT as the decision maker.

The Review is delighted to welcome the group Save Perth Hills as a member of the magazine. The group that has battled the Satterley proposal will be providing notes on the issue.

Review AGM

We're hoping that members of the Darlington Review will join us at our very speedy (and very social) AGM that happens on Tuesday March 26 at 7pm at 6A Brook Road in Darlington. It's always a nice occasion for long-standing and new member groups to get-together and to meet the Review team – including our new front-of-house Review Manager Gabby Houldsworth whose contact details are on the inside front cover.

Gabby handles all queries and matters that don't neatly fall neatly into the editorial, advertising or business areas and she will be familiar to many of you as she's has already had a long association with the Review as a backup for the Advertising Manager Julie Stuurstraat. And we are, of course, delighted to have Julie back on the team.

Members of our expanded editorial team will also be there, so it's a great chance to put faces to names and enjoy a glass of champagne after the serious stuff has been completed. Shortly our members (listed on the inside front cover) will be receiving notices of the AGM and proxy forms.

If you have any queries, contact Business Manager Betty Pitcher at: business@darlingtonreview.com.au

Calling All Local Graphic Designers

The Darlington Review is on the hunt for a local Production Manager as our graphic designer Antoinette Boyd (who makes the magazine look so great) is planning to travel across Australia this year.

If you have the relevant experience, please read the Production Manager advert below and get in touch. This is the only paid position (apart from the printing) on the Review.

And That's a Wrap

As we go to press, Darlington is still recovering from its brush with the fast and furious storm that hit the Hills on Tuesday 16th January. Seeing the extent of the destruction in the Perth Hills and beyond and watching those communities pull together to help each other, just as they do in bushfire situations, reminds us of why community is so important in the Hills.

If you wish to become more involved in your vibrant Darlington community, maybe think about volunteering in some capacity inour local volunteer fire brigade. Neil pointed out to me that sometimes the only skill needed might be to be as a driver, for example to drive crews to swap shifts. Or, think about attending one of these upcoming meetings:

- Darlington Residents and Ratepayer Association (DRRA) on February 8th at the Darlington Hall.
- Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (see Colin James' notes) on February 27th at the Pavilion

Jayne Simpson | February Editor

The Darlington Review is looking for a new Production Manager.
This is a paid position - approximately 2-3 days per month.
We need someone who is able to use Indesign, work to deadlines and ideally has experience in the print industry.
If this sounds like you, please send a few details about yourself to jamantboyd@gmail.com

ARE YOU OUR NEXT
PRODUCTION MANAGER

DARLINGTON REVIEW

Letter to the Editor

The Kindness of Strangers (Name and address supplied)...

This time last year a good friend told me about a project she had planned as a way of giving back to her community. She wishes to remain anonymous, so we'll just call her V.

The project was to handcraft a string market bag for every household in her neighbourhood - a total of 277 in time for Christmas 2023.

Almost a year later, to the amazement of her friends V had completed 285 bags (including extra's) and two weeks before Xmas a group of friends helped her deliver the market bags to every household in her community.

Each bag took around 3½ hours to make and an extra half hour to finish including tagging and packaging (four hours in total). The bags were crocheted with waste yarns from factory overruns and expand up to three times their size. Perfect for carrying groceries and produce.

The note that accompanied each bag reads ... This handcrafted string market bag is a gift for you to show that you are thought of, valued and appreciated. Sometimes we feel alone and forgotten. We might not have close family or friends nearby or be in a strong financial position. We may have worries and anxieties about life. But being noticed and having someone wave and smile as they pass can really brighten one's day. To share a chat about the weather, or let you know if your pets are out, comment that they have not seen you for a while, can make all the difference. Being part of a community in these uncertain times is so important. I hope this bag will encourage you to smile, wave, have a quick chat and care for others and make the Boya community a stronger and friendlier place to be.

V also suggests exchanging, regifting or giving the market bag to charity if it's not useful so that it can continue to spread the spirit of community support and care.

The community Facebook page leaves no doubt that V's kindness is appreciated with many messages of thanks and amusing, sometimes emotional anecdotes of discovery which make for inspiring reading. People are now adding posts and photos from interstate, so the bags have taken on a life of their own.

The fact that my friend wishes to remain anonymous speaks volumes about her character. I'm proud to call her friend and grateful to her for showing me what determination, commitment and an act of kindness can achieve; like the ripples from a stone thrown into a pond, the effects extend infinitely outward.

DARLINGTON REVIEW

Please keep Letter to the Review brief and include your name, address and phone number. Contact details will not be printed and you can request that a pseudonym rather than your name be used. Letters must be emailed to: editorial@darlingtonreview.com.au or placed in the Review box in the Post Office by the deadline date of the 20th of the month.

Classifieds

GARDENING, pruning, weeding, mulching, whipper snipping, gutters cleaned, general tidy up. **Phone Geoff 0409 088 936.**

60+ DANCE CLASS, MONDAYS 9.30am Darlington Hall, cost $15. All welcome, no experience needed. **Contact Lynne 0409 520 023.**

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE! Looks for details in the inside front cover to see how your can secure your spot in the next edition.

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4 lines; $5 for students.
Monies must be included with the advertisement and placed in the Review Box at the Darlington Post Office by the 20th of the month.

Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG)

At our final delegates meeting on November 27th, 2023 it was the general consensus from those their that we should continue in some form. It was noted the very significant contribution the DCRAG organization has achieved in Darlington, over many years since its inception as the Darlington Halls and Parks committee in the 1950's. It later changed its name to the Darlington Community Recreation Management Committee, and then again in 2015 to its current name. As an Advisory group to the Shire this provided more flexibility and autonomy.

Council at its 2023 October meeting, having reviewed their committees and Advisory Groups roles under the new Shire Committee, Advisory Groups, Representatives Meeting and Working Group Policy, decided that DCRAG will no longer be a Shire affiliated group. It was disappointing to note that one of the arguments given was due to "equity"..no other village having a Shire facilitated Advisory Group—that Darlington shouldn't get a special Shire facilitated group.

One could have considered that other Villages should have similar advisory groups to enhance the Council and Community connection Ratepayers have certainly benefited from all the achievements that DCRAG has coordinated for Darlington over many years - some of the major ones are:

- Installation of the initial BMX trackand skate park back in 2010.
- Review of the changerooms in 2010, led to them being rebuilt and including a Community use pavilion, majority was publicly funded, opened in 2020.
- 2018the Lower Area Management Plan (LAMP1), which obtained Government funds, to extend the skatepark; build the pump track and the Grand Arbour. The Community garden also conceived.
- 2022 the second phase of LAMPII is underway embarking on the Wetland Rehabilitation Action Plan (WRAP).
- …and over the years, many other projects through Shire capital works and respective Groups involvements.

Our next meeting is the AGM, to be held on MONDAY, 26th FEBRUARY at 7.00pm in the Community pavilion. We will again discuss a continuing role for DCRAG, and in what form. Nominations will be received for 3 representatives from local community otherwise not representative of a particular user group. Chair and Secretary will also be elected.

Colin James | Acting Chair

Councillor's Column South Ward | Cr Trish Cook, Deputy President | Shire of Mundaring

Welcome to 2024. I hope some of you were able to take some time off over the holidays to enjoy time with family, friends and community.

The Darlington community finished 2023 with the unveiling of 'Trea's seat' which was built near the water fountain and is a tribute to Trea Wiltshire's passion for local journalism and for her contribution of four decades as editor of our beloved magazine. Many thanks go to Trea's family, head organiser Chris Durrant, the Darlington Review, and all the donors for organising the seat which is a welcome and well used addition to the community. Just like the Pavilion, pump track and Community Garden Arbour, Trea's seat is another example of a Darlington community initiated, led, funded and organised project.

I acknowledge all our wonderful volunteers who worked so hard, both in Darlington, and within the Shire. The challenges we experienced with the Parkerville bushfire and the January summer storms saw communities come together with support for those impacted by the events.

Thank you also to the volunteers of our Friends Groups and Community Garden who have continued to water the seedlings on our reserves, shops and Hall garden during the summer, the village is looking beautiful. The oval is suffering as it does each year at this time but there are plans to install a new water tank to help with future reticulation of the oval.

Food Organics and Garden Organics – FOGO is coming

A three-bin system, including a red-lid bin, will be coming to Shire of Mundaring July 2024. FOGO will substantially benefit our environment by reducing land fill and subsequent methane greenhouse gases.

The operating cost of collecting the additional FOGO bins is offset by the cheaper waste station gate fee for FOGO material as compared to the gate fee for general landfill material. Thus operating costs are expected to be cost neutral.

The cost of the new bins and planned education roll out will be fully covered by grants from the WA State's Better Bins programme and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) and is in line with direction of the State's waste strategy.

Darlington Bushfire Ready Group

January 2024

Preparedness Campaign Update

Emergency Kits
Make sure yours is up-to-date and easily accessible.

Bushfire Plans
Don't just have one, consider different options.

Personal Preparedness
Ponder how you can build your own personal resilience.

Last Minute Bits
What's your plan for all those last minute items that can't live in your Emergency Kit?

Shire of MUNDARING

Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

REMEMBER

000 is the **ONLY** number to ring for all fire and smoke sightings.

- **The** ComCen **will page our members who are on duty.**
- **For general Brigade enquiries please ring** 9299 7217. Station hours: **Saturday 9am-10:30am.**
  Web: **darlingtonfire.org.au** • Facebook: **Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade** • Instagram: **dvbfb_**
- Next meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Darlington Fire Station.

Firstly, "Happy New Year" and a belated welcome to 2024. From the members of the Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, we would like to wish all our community members a safe, happy, and prosperous year ahead.

We would like to thank all of the families that came out and supported our Santa Run before Christmas. The Brigade loved driving Santa around Darlington to visit our wonderful community. It was a long hot afternoon, and not without a few glitches, so we really appreciate the positive vibe and wonderful feedback we received.

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TO BURN?
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My Bushfire Plan

Got 15 minutes to burn? Remember, bushfires are unpredictable and the single biggest killer is indecision. Having a bushfire plan will help you take action, and avoid making last minute decisions. You don't have to live in the bush to be at risk from bushfires, as embers can travel up to 25km during a bushfire. Create a bushfire plan that outlines what you will do if a bushfire occurs, prepare your property, pack an emergency kit, and learn the Bushfire Waning and Rating Systems. Consider what to do if you're not at home or children are at school, plan for your pets and/or livestock and have back up plans. Write down your plans, make sure everyone knows where they are, and practice them with your family. Visit mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au and make a plan today.

With many large fires incidents occurring across WA over the last couple of months, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our Hills fire fighters and expressed their thanks and their messages of good will. Many of those fires have threatened communities, and they serve as a reminder that there is no reason to ignore the risks of fire, and the fire hazards present in our

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community. We encourage you to always be pro-active around your property by maintaining your firebreaks 3m wide and 4m high, keeping a 20-metre clearance zone around buildings, and reporting any sighting of smoke or fire immediately to 000. Keep informed about Fire Danger Ratings, fire bans, and alerts and warnings in your area. We recommend becoming familiar with, and using, EmergencyWA for all your official and current information. Also, take note of any suspicious activity in and around bushland and report it to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Although we haven't had many significant fires in Darlington and the surrounding areas, our volunteers have been busy attending incidents in other parts of the state. Since late last year crews from Darlington have assisted at fires in Serpentine/Jarrahdale, Koongamia, Wanneroo, Stratton, West Toodyay, Lancelin, Parkerville, Gidgegannup/Bailup, Forrestdale, and Chittering.

During the spring and summer months our volunteer fire fighters also continue their training to better protect our community. Activities such as monthly training nights, skills refresher training, appliance familiarisations and driver training, and hose drills help our fire fighters prepare. Our members have volunteered many hours behind the scenes in recent months to be ready to help the community this summer.

If you would like any information on bushfire preparedness, property protection, warning information, Bush Fire Ready groups, or how to volunteer with us; please visit the station on a Saturday morning between 9am and 10.30am. For more tips, hints and general information on preparing yourselves and your property for the fire season, visit the DFES website (www.dfes.wa.gov.au). It's a great information source for such things as Bushfire Plan resources, Facts Sheets and How To guides, Total Fire Ban information, and other bush fire preparation resources.

"The very worst fire plan is no plan. The next worst is two plans." ~ Author unknown

Ricky Harvey

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23 March
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Twilight Tunes Live Music Event
BYO Picnic
5pm to 7.30pm

12 April
Youth Fest
Harry Riseborough Oval
Celebrating Youth Week WA
Live DJ, Skate Clinic, Free Amusements & BBQ
12pm to 3pm

For more information on these free and inclusive events visit mundaring.wa.gov.au @shireofmundaring or call 9290 6718

lotterywest

Shire of MUNDARING

Darlington Social Cricket Club

The last game of 2023 was a delightful match against Stephen Jones' Pony Club Eleven, which means the young and bouncy Pony Club members took on the might of the elderly but determined fellows of the Darlington Social Cricket Club. With predictable results.

Darlington batted first, and we thought we'd put on a decent score in the face of heroic fielding from the Pony Club, accumulating a respectable 215 runs. There was a nice break between the innings, as everyone recharged over a delicious afternoon tea provided by Ian Scrimshaw and Monica. Cups of tea, icy cold cordial from the esky cooler, sandwiches and quiches, and jovial conversation always sets everyone up for a wonderful afternoon on the field.

As expected, the Pony Club came to play. They seemed determined to give the Darlington old boys a workout, sending ball after ball to the boundary for four. In the interests of giving everyone a go, the DSCC tradition is to retire when you reach a score of 50. Four of the Pony Club players retired on 50, making short work of the 216 runs needed to win.

All the players thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially the cold beer at the end of play, as they stood around discussing every shot and all the good wickets. Eventually though, it was time for dinner.

You may have seen us enjoying our balmy evening BBQs at the Darlington pavilion after the game, when the players of both teams and their families sit down to a meal together. We all bring our own meat to cook on the BBQ, and one of the DSCC families brings or buys salads, potato bake and bread for everyone to share. It's an easy and enjoyable dinner with friends, and it's one of the bright golden threads in the fabric of the Darlington Social Cricket Club community. Our kids have free range of the oval and skate park, we buy a cold beverage from the pavilion bar, and we shoot the breeze in the Darlington twilight with friends new and old.

This game with the Pony Club, though, is our annual Christmas celebration and dinner is held at Kendall and Lindsay Earnshaw's place. The same dinner applies – everyone brings their BBQ meat and the hosts supply the salads, but there's a pool for the kids and Santa always makes an appearance with a gift for every child, even the uber-cool teenagers that pretend they're too old for all the fun.

It was a wonderful way to end the year, even if we did lose the match in spectacular fashion. The Pony Club team are all excellent players and first-class people that we love seeing year after year. The day was a bit of an island of calm amid the chaos before Christmas, and we spent it doing some of the things we love best: playing cricket, watching cricket, eating excellent food, and spending time with excellent people.

If any of this appeals to you, Darlington Social Cricket Club is always looking for more families to join the club. You don't need any experience or skill at cricket (obviously), and you don't need to be available every weekend to play. You don't even need to play at all, if you'd just like to join us as a social member! But if you would like to play a little cricket and do a little socialising with some of the very best people in our community, you are most welcome to come along and join us.

What's on at the Hub of the Hills for over 55's in February

Weekly activities return dates

Craft Group	returns 1 February at 10am
Coffee Morning	returns 6 February at 9.30am
Gadgets & Gizmos	returns 6 February at 9.30am
Seniors Drop-In	returns 7 February at 9.30am
Scrabble & Rummikub	returns 8 February at 1pm
Open Eyed Meditation	returns 9 February at 10am

Weekly activities already returned

Mah Jong	Tuesdays	12.30pm to 4pm
Cryptic Crosswords	Thursdays	1pm to 3pm
Bolivia	Thursdays	1pm to 5pm

NEXT EVENT

Book Cafe
Tuesday 19 March
9.30am - 11am

Purchase good quality pre-loved books and enjoy a home made morning tea. All welcome.

The Hub of the Hills, 8 Craig Street, Mundaring
9290 6683 cso4@mundaring.wa.gov.au | Officer present on:
Tuesday 8.30am to 11.30am | Wednesday 9am to 12pm | Thursday 10am to 2pm

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By Appointment only
3/7160 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring
(Next to Patch of Country Cafe)

9293 4747
kalamunda@mp.wa.gov.au
Matthew Hughes MLA

Community First

On 30 November 2023 the State Government introduced the Climate Change Bill 2023 to Parliament. The State Government has committed to enacting climate change legislation to contribute to national and global goals for decarbonisation, enhance accountability, provide certainty for businesses, and attract the investment required for the net zero transition. The development of climate change legislation underscores the State Government's commitment to climate action.

Once enacted, the legislation will provide the framework for State Government action on climate, with the aim that Western Australia is well positioned to realise the benefits of the global clean energy transition.

The legislation ensures State Government accountability on climate action, formalising the state's target of net zero emissions by 2050. The legislation provides the statutory requirements to set interim emission reduction targets and develop policies to reduce emissions and enhance climate resilience.

The legislation will require the Minister for Climate Action to set a 2030 target for State Government emissions as soon as practicable after the Act comes into operation and for the Minister for Climate Action to report annually to the Parliament of Western Australia on the state's emissions and progress against the emission reduction targets.

The Climate Change Bill complements existing State and national legislation covering facilities with significant greenhouse gas emissions, including the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme and the Safeguard Mechanism.

The Bill is intended to hold Government to account, not create obligations for business or duplicate existing mechanisms for regulating industrial greenhouse gas emissions.

Why is climate change legislation important? While climate change legislation is not required to deliver the Government's goals for climate action, legislated targets and reporting will help provide the certainty and stability the community and investors are seeking.

Western Australia is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves, high-risk bushfire weather, extreme rainfall events and rising sea levels. Urgent action is needed to enhance the resilience of vulnerable assets, communities, ecosystems and infrastructure.

Decarbonisation and adaptation require investments with long lead times. Households and businesses will need to be confident that policies will remain stable over many years if they are to invest in and change their behaviour in line with government climate change objectives.

Climate change legislation will enhance the credibility of the Government's climate change response, provide greater certainty about emissions reduction pathways for Western Australia and reduce investment risks because of uncertainty. Climate change legislation will ensure that Western Australia contributes to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will align with the Australian Government's commitments to reducing national emissions.

If you wish to learn more about the Western Australia's climate change legislation visit the State government website or email climatebill@dwer.wa.gov.au

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Disclaimer

The Darlington Review's Rules of Association (2012) read: *"To produce and publish a monthly journal with the intention of fostering good relationships within the Darlington community and keeping residents informed about community issues."* Our *Guide for Scribes* invites members to submit notes "to inform members and the Darlington Community about past, ongoing and future activities…". The Review accepts no liability for errors/omissions contained in articles, statements or advertisements published herein. The views expressed in Letters and Notes are not the views of the Darlington Review and we are not responsible for them. Members are requested to ensure their notes adhere to the magazine's guiding spirit of fostering harmonious community relationships. The Darlington Review is available in digital format via *Issu*, the online website.

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Save Perth Hills

Hello to our Darlington friends and supporters!

Save Perth Hills is honoured, and excited, to be providing regular updates in the esteemed Darlington Review throughout 2024!

As many of you know, stopping the proposed dangerous and destructive, suburban-style North Stoneville townsite, has been Save Perth Hills' primary focus for 33 long years.

On December 7th, WA's top planning authority, the WA Planning Commission, formally rejected – for the second time, Satterley Property Group's urban plan to build a townsite for 3,000 people on 535 hectares in Stoneville, confirming it's too dangerous to build.

But it's not over yet...

Fittingly, our inaugural Darlington Review update is a Special Invitation to you, to join Save Perth Hills on **Friday morning, February 2,** in the city, to demand Satterley, and the Anglican Church, North Stoneville's landowner, withdraw their North Stoneville plan - forever.

We even have a **FREE return Save Perth Hills bus** to take you from Sculpture Park, Mundaring, to Stirling Gardens Perth, opposite the Anglicans' St George's Cathedral, and the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT), where Satterley will be appearing.

At 10.30am on February 2nd, Satterley's response to the WAPC's rejection will be made public at the Tribunal. Satterley will either accept the WAPC's rejection and withdraw the plan, or ignore all the bushfire and evacuation warnings from DFES, our own firefighters, and ex-DFES Commissioner and Darlington resident, Dr Wayne Gregson, along with 1,200 pages of planning and environmental advice, evidence and rejections from Mundaring Shire Council, our Community and WA's Department of Planning - and ask that the fate of the plan be determined by a full SAT Trial, which taxpayers will partially fund.

Come along and bring your Save Perth Hills banners! Invite your family, friends and neighbours! We have a brilliant team of drummers attending to make sure Satterley and the Church hear our Hills' Community Loud and Clear! Withdraw your North Stoneville Plan Satterley – forever!

See you on February 2nd!

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Glen Forrest Bridge Club (GFBC)

Welcome to Glen Forrest Bridge Club

Members of Glen Forrest Bridge Club have been looking forward to a New Year of challenge, fascination and importantly, socialising with other members.

Maybe you have considered learning to play or to renew your interest in the game. Glen Forrest bridge club, is a friendly and supportive club that caters to beginners and experienced players.

For beginners, a very friendly and supportive session is held on Wednesday mornings 9.30am to 11.30am. People can learn to play from scratch, refresh skills, or just play socially without the pressure of competition. Regular bridge sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons

The Bridge club is located at the Glen Forrest Sports Club in Mc Glew Road. Fees are very modest and include membership of the Sports Club. After the Monday and Wednesday sessions refreshments are available from the bar to discuss hands play with whoever wishes to stay for a drink.

If you have considered playing or learning bridge, take action now, and join us. You will be made very welcome.

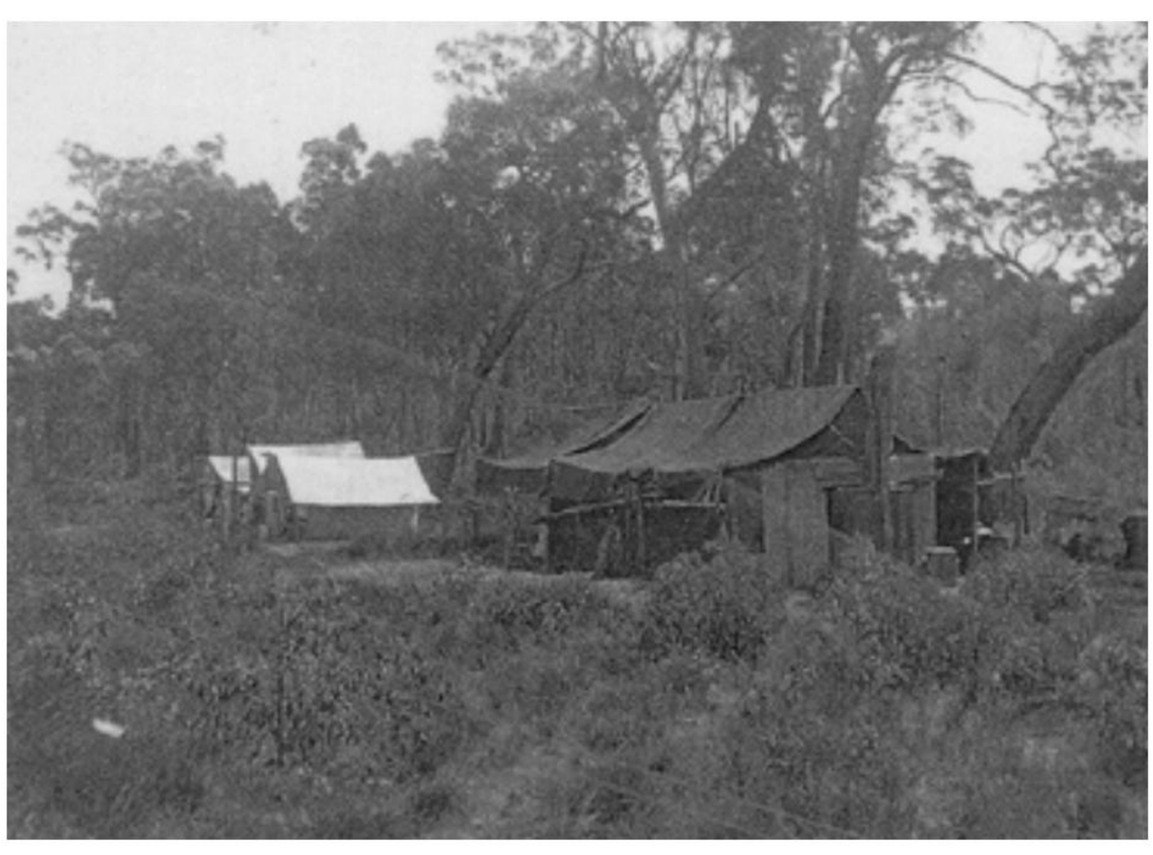
Call Rhonda 0424 548 882 or Ronnie 0419 961 711.

Mundaring and Hills Historical Society

Beechina

Introducing Beechina, one of the Shire of Mundaring's 22 localities. Beechina is a small rural settlement located 19 kilometres to the north-east of the Mundaring township. The name 'Beechina' was first recorded in 1847 by Philip Chauncy, the Swan River Colony's assistant government surveyor, while surveying the first road to Northam.

Chauncy frequently talked to the Indigenous inhabitants he encountered on his journeys, noting the names they used for the places he surveyed. His records provide a rich ethnographic resource of Noongar names and their meanings. Beechina was their name for a valley of white gums situated to the north-east of where Chauncy was surveying.



Located on the first route of the Eastern Railway line from Guildford to Chidlow, Beechina owes its existence to the topographic features of the area. The following year the line was extended further east, passing through Wooroloo on its way to Spencer's Brook, fifty-three kilometres from Chidlow. Part of this extension necessitated the line descend into a steep valley, formed by a tributary of Wooroloo Brook, before commencing its ascent to the top of the grade at Koojedda, twenty-nine kilometres away. Avoiding this valley was not possible as it would have meant routing the line several miles farther south of the surveyed line. This would have incurred additional costs that the government was not prepared to authorise at that time.

The line from Bellevue to Chidlow already involved a steep climb, making it difficult for the trains. After Chidlow, the line continued its climb. The steepness of the descent was not uniform, which proved to be a significant impediment to the efficiency and running costs of the railway, particularly for westbound trains. A deviation to realign the existing line was required to ease the gradient to a still very steep 1 in 45. It was from this need to improve transport efficiency that Beechina came about.

Next General Meeting to be held:
Saturday 16th March
Boya Community Centre, 135 Scott Street, Boya

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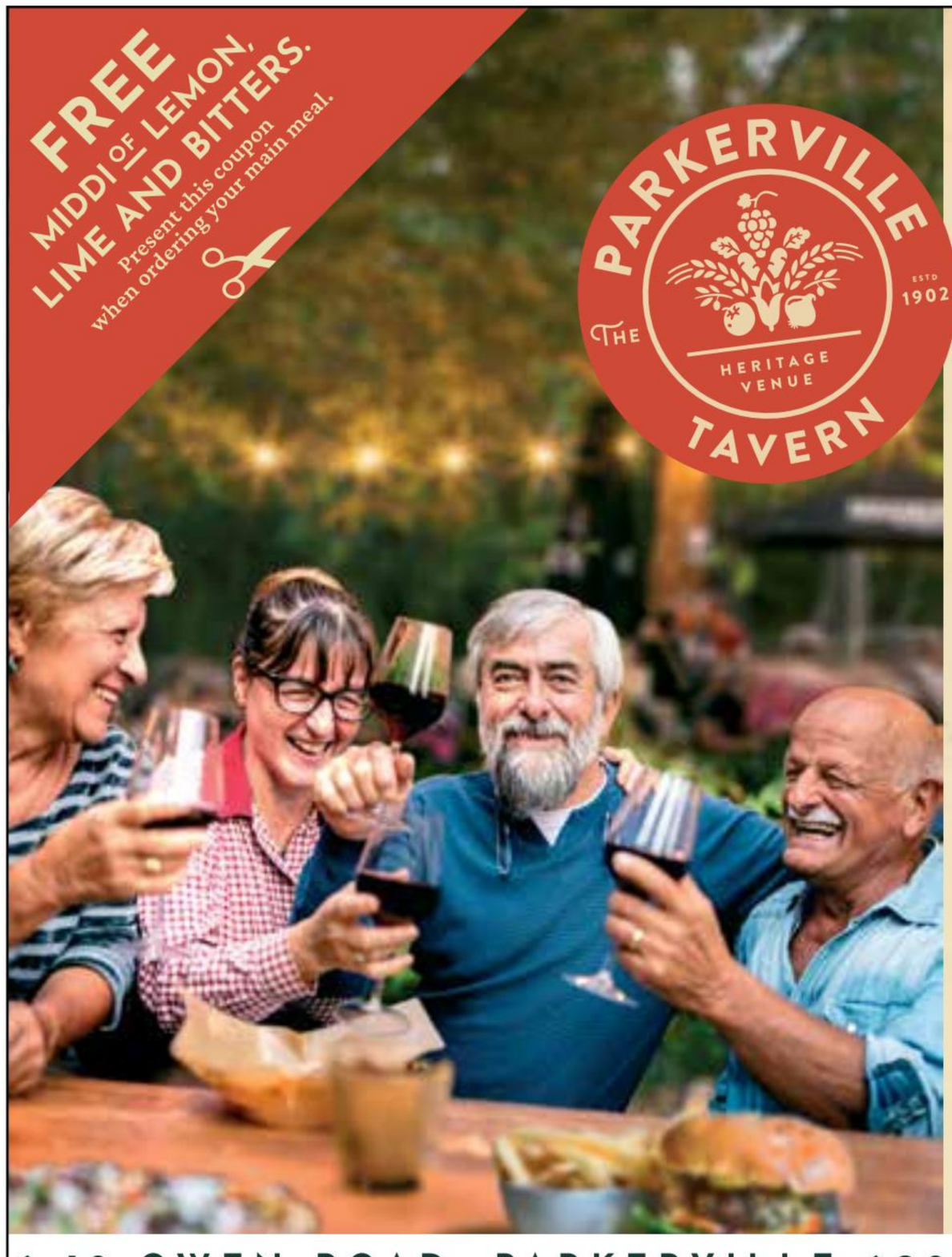

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Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre

Coming up at the KSP Writers' Centre

Writing Workshop: So You Want to Add Meaning to Your Sentences, Saturday 10 February 2024,1.00-4.00pm

Have you ever read a sentence that made you slam down your book and wonder, 'how did the author do that?' Have you ever wanted to get music, majesty and meaning into your own sentences all the while shrugging off your brilliance, with 'oh this little thing'? Then this workshop is for you. This workshop, suitable for writers of any age or genre, is facilitated by Michelle Johnston who is both an Emergency Physician and author. Her first novel, Dustfall, was published in 2018 by UWA Publishing and was short-listed for the MUD debut literary fiction prize. Her second novel is Tiny Uncertain Miracles, published November 2022 with HarperCollins 4th Estate. Her day (and sometimes night) job plays out in an inner-city trauma hospital, the well-spring of infinite human stories. Tickets from $35.

2024 Spooky Stories Competition is open for submissions. Deadline: 13 March 2024 5pm AWST Theme: Don't Look Up, Cost: $10 Adults, FREE youth

The KSP Writers' Centre is proud to present our annual spooky story competition, sponsored by Little Black Dress Productions. The judges will be looking for good quality original, unpublished writing with engaging characters and a compelling narrative including an excellent beginning, middle and end. Entries must be rated PG and should address the set theme Don't Look Up.

Results will be announced at an awards ceremony and book launch event in August and published on social media and the KSP website thereafter. Shortlisted entrants will be contacted prior to the awards ceremony with an invitation to attend and read an extract of their entry.

Limits: YOUTH 500 words max, one entry only (Australian residents); ADULT 1,200 words max, unlimited entries (WA residents only).

For more information on our residencies, competitions or other activities please visit the KSP website www.kspwriterscentre.com or phone the office on 08 9294 1872. KSP Writers' Centre is proudly sponsored by the Shire of Mundaring.

Forrest Darlings CWA

The dawn of a new year gives us a chance to reflect on the achievements of Forrest Darlings CWA branch in 2023. It was another busy year where we engaged in a range of activities linked to our passions for community, crafts and catering.

We made and donated almost 200 library bags for local primary schools including Greenmount, Clayton View, Swan View and Herne Hill. Our famous crochet Christmas tree was repurposed into 14 knee rugs which were donated to Swan Care Bentley. We also gave adult bibs and fiddle sleeves to nursing homes and local families in need.

Our stalls at Mundaring Garden and Farmers Market continued to grow and provided an important opportunity to connect with our local community while fundraising through the sales of crafts and baked goods.

In November we were thrilled with the success of our bake stall at Darlington Arts Festival, raising over $1700! Thank you to everyone who supported our endeavours.

Our first meeting of 2024 was unfortunately disrupted by the widespread power outages caused by the storm event. Our next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 21 February (7pm) at Darlington Pavilion. Please come along and find out more about our plans for the year ahead. For more info contact Kate Herren (President) 0452 644 248 or follow Forrest Darlings CWA on Facebook.

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Kalamunda District Bridge Club

Our Christmas Party and prize giving for the year was held on Saturday the 9th December. We had a very large crowd who came for the yummy food, the bridge and of course the prizes. Tom and Kit Lemann took out several of the competitions as did Stephen Thyer. Our congratulations go to those members.

The club was the subject of a group of university students who came together to make a short film based on the history and people of the club. Several members were interviewed and just before Christmas the finished product was shown to us. It was very well done causing much hilarity with the members and is going to be entered in the Best Australian Short film competition!

We have a new course of Beginners Bridge classes starting on Friday 1st March 9.30 am -1130am . Given by Fiske Warren who is not only an experienced bridge player but an excellent teacher. Enquires to Jenny 0407 085 229.

Our new Thursday session for under 50 master points is proving to be very popular. You can come without a partner as there is always someone to play with! Arrive by 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start. It's a very friendly and casual atmosphere. Visitors most welcome!

Winners (from left to right) Carmen Jackson and Stephen Thyer and Kit and Tom Lemann.

Baha'i Community of Mundaring

How were your summer holidays? During the break between Christmas and New Year nearly 400 friends of the Baha'i faith attended a four day Summer School at Fairbridge. A theme that ran through all the sessions was the overwhelming coherence between science and religion. We discussed quotations from eminent scientists and religious texts and kept coming back to the conclusion that ***relationships are all there is!*** Below are some of the quotes we discussed. See what you think, do you agree?!

'Abdu'l-Baha said at the turn of the 20th Century, *"Reflect upon the inner realities of the universe, the secret wisdoms involved, the enigmas, the inter-relationships, the rules that govern all. For every part of the universe is connected with every other part by ties that are very powerful and admit of no imbalance ...:"*

Margaret Wheatley in her 2006 paper, Relationships: The Basic Building Blocks of Life wrote, "The scientific search for the basic building blocks of life has revealed a startling fact: there are none. The deeper that physicists peer into the nature of reality, the only thing they find is relationships. Even sub-atomic particles do not exist alone. One physicist described neutrons, electrons, etc. as ". . .a set of relationships that reach outward to other things." Although physicists still name them as separate, these particles aren't ever visible until they're in relationship with other particles. Everything in the Universe is composed of these "bundles of potentiality" that only manifest their potential in relationship."

And finally Albert Einstein, *"Strange is our situation here on Earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that man is here for the sake of other men - above all for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends.*

A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

If you'd like to explore the Baha'i vision of unity and connection, we hold regular study circles at homes in Darlington, Glen Forrest, Mahogany Creek and Mundaring. These are welcoming spaces to study and have spiritual conversations with friends from diverse backgrounds. All are welcome. More details on our Facebook page and website.

Mundaring Baha'i Community mundaring@wa.bahai.org.au www.bahai.org.au

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DHG Christmas Party Friday December 8, 2023

DHG's annual Christmas Party, held at Vice Chair Cliff Burn's house was a festive gathering with a "bad taste and funny hats" theme. Attendees, including the Committee and invitees, enjoyed perfect weather and a delightful spread contributed by those in attendance. Susan's expertise in the sweets department was especially noteworthy. The evening included the presentation of the Ernie award to Christine, recognising her significant contributions to the history group, including organising catering, joint secretary duties, and her involvement in organising the DAF fundraising efforts alongside Liz. The night featured creative and funny hats, most notably from Rob, Denis, and Mike. Liz orchestrated a unique Secret Santa exchange, adding a twist where gifts could be requested by others, resulting in a joyful and fun-filled celebration.

Vale Judi Bracks

We have been saddened by the passing of Judi Bracks as we reflect on her dedicated contributions since becoming an inaugural member in August 2010. Judi's pivotal role in publicity, including writing articles for the Darlington Review and organising speaker evenings, showcased her reliability and enthusiasm. A Darlington resident with familial ties to the Fischer family, Judi's knowledge of the area and its history was invaluable. As her health declined, Judi's move to her daughter's care left a void in the group, marked by the absence of her cheerful smile and bubbly personality. Her legacy remains an integral part of the group's history and we extend heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Vale Judi.

Guest Speaker Programme Resumes For 2024

"History Of The Helena Vale Racecourse"
Wednesday 13 March @ 7.30Pm Sharp
Darlington Lesser Hall, Owen Road, Darlington

Established in 1898 on 160 acres of thick scrub, the Helena Vale Racecourse was funded by a shareholder syndicate of up to 20 people, mainly businessman from Midland, Guildford and Perth.

Consisting of stables, a mounting yard, grandstand and a racing track the racecourse was a regular place of entertainment for both locals and those further afield. Come along and hear **Matthew Pavlinovich from Midland and Districts Historical Society** speak about the development of the racecourse, from its inception to the final race in 1969. Refreshments will be served after the talk. Gold coin donation appreciated at the door. Contact Val 9299 6868 for more information.

Bric-A-Brac

Due to storage and handling issues, DHG will no longer collect books for fundraising but will continue collecting bric-a-brac which every year is a crowd favourite and a very good fundraiser for us. Contact Liz 0427 952 491 or Christine 0490 793 015 for contributions.

Join Us For Just $5 A Year

We would love some new members! Visit our website for more details www.dhg.org.au .

A Flair For Storytelling and a Sharp Wit, We Farewell Gentleman Les

The Darlington History Group mourns the passing of Les Ashton, a foundational member who played a crucial role in the group's development since its inception in August 2010. Les, known for his captivating storytelling, keen intellect, and humour, actively contributed to the committee's early strategies and website development. His memoir, accessible on the group's website under History Resources/Memoirs, serves as a valuable legacy. Les spent his teenage years in Darlington when his parents purchased the property on Victor Rd in 1951. He was an inaugural member of the Darlington social group called "The Younger Set" devised by the United Church in 1953 to promote sporting, cultural and social interests among the youth of Darlington. His love of horses led him to become a member of the Pony Club in Parkerville, where he played many polocrosse matches with other Darlington enthusiasts. The groups he belonged to loved his sense of humour, knowledge, and intellect – which he generously shared. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Mira, a DHG committee member for many years. His absence will be deeply felt by the group. Vale Gentleman Les.

Goodbye To White Lodge

The half acre property at 4 Brook Rd, originally Lot 41 in the Darlington Vineyard subdivision of 1918, has a rich history. Purchased around 1918 by Dorothea Martin, it passed to her husband George Gilbert Martin in 1925 when Dorothea died. In 1937 George's son Geoffrey received the property as a wedding present. The Darlington Rates records show the house was built by Geoffery in 1940. The property now with the house, was sold shortly after in 1941 to Archibald Parrant whose occupation was, a Tube Works Manager. His daughter Sadie married Charles Johnson in 1935, and they came to Darlington with their children and occupied the house during WW2. After the war in 1946 the property was possibly only rented by Dudley Preston who was a Car Dealer. The next owner in 1947 was Edwin Edgecombe who was an Architect and his wife Mary. In 1954 the property eventually became the home of Findlay and Freda Kidman, who became long term residents of Darlington. Findlay Kidman was a Wool-buyer and a descendant of the famous pioneer Kidman family. You can read Findlay's memoirs on our website under History Resources/Memoirs. Findlay celebrated his 100th birthday at the property, and died in 2016. The Kidman family sold the property in 2020 and the house was demolished in December 2023, marking the end of an era.

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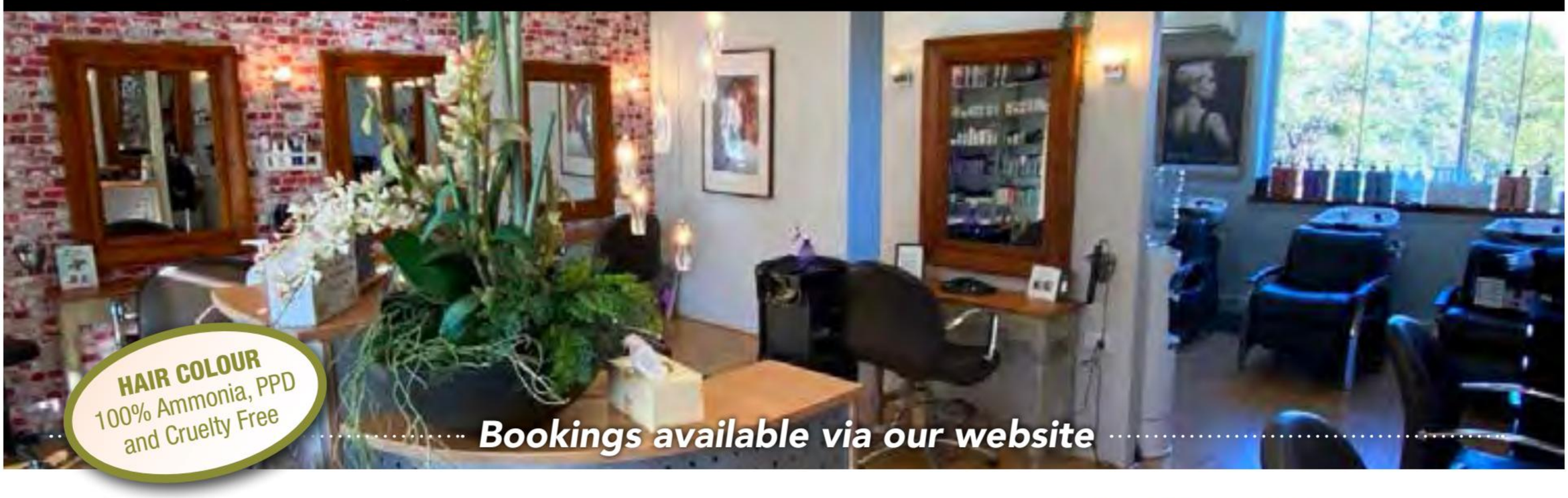

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Extra Extra! Newsies Jr. Headlining At Marloo Theatre!

After a highly successful 2023 season, the Darlington Theatre Players are back for 2024 and kicking off the year with a showcase of talent from youth performers. The junior version of the smash musical Newsies takes to the stage this month and is set to be an energetic and vibrant show with singing, dancing and attitude!

The story is set against the backdrop of 1899 New York City and follows the newspaper strike in which newsboys rose up against their bosses, fighting for fair working conditions. At the centre of it is Jack Kelly (David Bell) who becomes somewhat of a revolution leader. He goes head to head with newspaper owner and publisher Joseph Pulitzer (Harrison Ricci) whilst journalist Katherine Plummer (Jemima Lee) works in the background to discover the truth.

Disney's Newsies Jr. is Marloo Theatre's first musical since 2021 and the production team and cast are very excited to present a show that is beloved by many and possesses a dynamic youth cast. No stranger to youth theatre, Disney's Newsies Jr. is being directed by DTP life member and one of the leaders of Marloo Youth Theatre Rachel Vonk who unashamedly lists Newsies as her favourite musical. The talented production team is completed by Oneisha Temby (Asst. Director), Rebecca and Chris McRae (Musical Directors) and Michelle Ezzy (Choreographer) who also all possess extensive musical theatre and teaching experience.

Disney's Newsies Jr. promises a joyful experience complete with live band and the songs will have the audiences tapping their toes and smiling from ear to ear. With dynamic production values and talent both on and off the stage, this is a show not to be missed!

Disney's Newsies Jr. opens on February 16th at Marloo Theatre in Greenmount and tickets can be booked at www.trybooking.com/CLYNA

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Story and Rhyme Time Term One

Baby Rhyme Time and Story Time sessions recommence from Tuesday 30 January. Baby Rhyme Time is a time of language enrichment through stories, songs and rhymes for 0-2 year olds. Story Time is a fun time of stories, songs, rhymes and craft for 2-5 year-olds. Baby Rhyme Time sessions are on is on at 9.30am and Story Time sessions are on at 10.30am. Boya Library sessions are on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mundaring Library sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

LEGO Club

LEGO Club resumes for Term One on Thursday 1 February. LEGO Club is an after-school activity for children aged **6-12 years** on Thursdays at Mundaring Lesser Hall from 3.30pm-4.30pm. There is a different theme each week, with a 'LEGO of the Week' creation displayed in the library until the next session. No bookings are necessary. Children aged under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult. Lego Club is held during school terms only.

Choice Online now available in the libraries

CHOICE products reviews and comparisons, news topics, and more can now be viewed in the library on our public computers. Shire of Mundaring Libraries has subscribed to CHOICE online so you can view product reviews and comparisons with a simple search. Library staff are always available to help if you get stuck, or you can always book dedicated time with one of our wonderful computer help volunteers for in-depth help in learning to search websites.

You can view the general CHOICE website at https://www.choice.com.au but for access to detailed information, pop into the libraries and book a computer.

Minecraft Players, have you heard about LibraryCraft?

Library craft is a free West Australian based Minecraft Server for Java Edition players aged 7 to 17 years.

Three servers combined provide a safe multi-world adventure to meet up with mates, enter competitions, and play and build. You can build away to your hearts content in the Creative Zone, play mini-games in the Mini-Games Zone, or battle mobs and zombies in the Survival zone.

Sign up and learn more about Librarycraft at https://librarycraft.net. The server for Librarycraft is currently run by the wonderful librarians at Fremantle Library.

BorrowBox

Have you checked out these fantastic magazines for kids available on BorrowBox? BorrowBox is free with your library membership. Download the BorrowBox app and sign in with your library membership details. Check out the full range of digital resources on the Library eResources page on the Shire of Mundaring website.

Summer Reading Quest

Kids, have you joined the Summer Reading Quest? There's still time! The end of February is the end of the quest, so now's the time to read as much as you can. There's tons of prizes across the state that are up for grabs, but you've got to be in it to win it! Come into Mundaring or Boya libraries to collect your Summer Reading Quest Booklet (for ages 5+) or Summer Steps Card (for under-fives) and get ready to read!

BorrowBox is supporting the WA Summer Reading Quest 23/24. You will find "Summer Reading Quest" as a category within the BorrowBox app with heaps of fantastic titles.

Seed Library Donations

The Mundaring Seed Library is looking a little bare so we would welcome donations of any seeds you have collected or can collect.

The lovely folk at Mundaring Seed Savers sort, clean and prepare donated seeds to add to the seed library – a true labour or love! Library staff catalogue and add the seed packets to the library system. Library members may then "borrow" seeds, plant and grow them, then harvest seeds to "return" to the library - a lovely cycle of giving and receiving and sustainability.

If you have seeds you can donate, bring them in to the Boya or Mundaring libraries. You simply need to supply details of the seed variety along with the seeds. It would be greatly appreciated if a note is included on where the seeds were harvested and any tips on growing. The libraries have donation envelopes or you can just use your own bag or container and drop them in to the libraries.

You can find out more about the Seed Library as well as hints and tips on how to harvest seeds at https://bit.ly/MunSeedLib.

Do you receive the Library eNewsletter?

Sign up to receive library news about upcoming events and programs at https://bit.ly/MUNlibnews.

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SHIRE OF MUNDARING

COMMUNITY GRANTS program

Community Event | Matching | Milestone Event grants

Eligible community groups can now apply for financial assistance to undertake community events and projects that involve and benefit the local community, and to hold events that celebrate a significant milestone.

Search for Community Grants on the Shire website for funding guidelines or phone 9290 6678. All applicants must discuss their eligibility, ideas and options with the Community Capacity Building Officer before submitting an application.

Applications must be submitted at mundaring.smartygrants.com.au by 4pm Thursday 7 March 2024.

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The Darlington Club

Happy 2024 to everyone and may it be a happy healthy year for all.

The club closed with a fun Christmas party with lots of food and laughter. Our collection of donations to the homeless was really successful. Sue and David Lavell took so may boxes to the 'Dreambuilders' in Midland, who make up hampers for those in need.

Thank you all to those that contributed, so very much appreciated by all.

The club will be opening on 2nd February, providing nibbles and a welcome drink for all. Please come along, bring a friend and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere.

Fees to join are $20 per person or $40 for two or family. Payee The Darlington Club Inc. BSB 633 000, Account 124527748. Reference Surname and Subs.

Sue Bennetts | Club Secretary | 0407 920 930

Coming Events:

The Club opens at 6.30pm every second Friday at Darlington Lesser Hall. BYO drinks and nibbles.

February 2nd	Sundowner with nibbles and welcome drink
February 9th	Closed

Contact Sue on 0439 273 213 or email oshadhi@iinet.net.au
or Sue Bennetts, Secretary on 0407 920 930 email garrysue24@iinet.net.au

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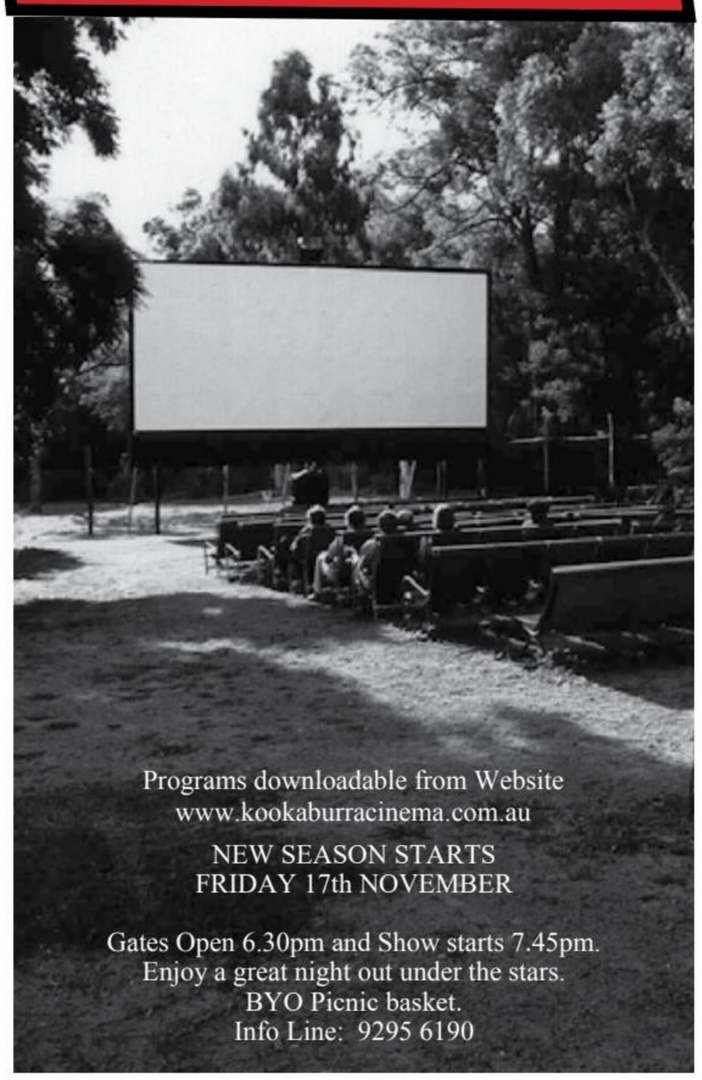

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Darlington Junior Football Club

DJFC is thrilled to announce that registrations for the 2024 season are open.

Our club runs an Auskick program for children in Pre-primary to Year 3 and has Junior teams from Year 4. If you would like your children to learn new skills, make new friends and develop self confidence all while playing Australia's greatest game sign up now.

https://www.playhq.com/afl/register

Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides

Inspiring girls to discover the best in themselves and make positive contributions to their community

The Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides hold a Presentation Night at the conclusion of each year. This is an opportunity for Girl Guide families to come along while we present the girls with their well earned badges.

During 2023 many girls stepped up their community service and we presented them with service flash badges to recognise their efforts. Congratulations to LuLu Farr who received the Kinka community service shield for showing outstanding efforts within the community. Congratulations also to Audrey Hill who was presented the Lend a hand shield by Jan Allen for consistently doing her best to follow the girl guide promise and laws.

We have a jam packed schedule for 2024! We presently have vacancies, so come down and have a try

We welcome new girls aged from 7-12 years. We meet at Kathleen Skipsey Hall – on Glen Road, Darlington on Tuesdays from 6pm to 7.30pm during the school term. If you have any queries regarding Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides please contact Karen on 0403233907 or enquire at Girl Guides WA.

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Welcome back for 2024!

Scouting began in Australia well over 100 years ago, and while much has changed in this time, the core values have remained and we continue to provide opportunities for young people to learn new skills, develop friendships, challenge themselves and learn to become better global citizens.

A new year, a new challenge?

Do you know any young people that might be interested in joining a group in the hills for young adventurers? Scouts provides fun youth development activities, building resilient and confident boys and girls aged 5 to 25 in the Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer Scout and Rover Scout Sections. We also welcome adult volunteer Scout Leaders. Scouts has opportunities for the whole family to be involved, and we have members from well beyond Darlington too.

Friendship - Scouts is a great chance to make new friends outside of school. Spending time camping or hiking with others your own age is a fun way to get to know people. You can take up opportunities of joining Scouts from all over the state in larger events, and even travel to other parts of Australia or another parts of the world through Scout Jamborees. Scout families are welcome to get involved too, with lots of opportunities for the whole family to make new friends and feel part of the community.

Adventure - Action is at the core of all Scouting activities. Whether they are tackling a river in a kayak or learning how to set up a tent, our program ensures that our Scouts never stand still. At your weekly meetings you'll learn the skills you need to plan, prepare and go on adventures, and by the time you've been a Scout for a few years, you'll find yourself being able to take yourself on solo hiking and camping activities.

Leadership - At Scouts you'll become a member of a Scout Patrol, working with other Patrols to form a larger Scout Troop. Together you'll make important decisions, set goals, and depend on each other to succeed. Scouting is youth-led, adult-supported. As a Scout, you get to choose what you want to do, and your Leaders are there to support and advise.

Australian Jamboree

The Australian Jamboree (AJ) is a mega camp held usually every 3-4 years by Scouts Australia. The 26th Australian Jamboree will be held in Maryborough, Queensland between 6 and 15 January 2025, plus additional days pre and post. Jamboree activities are a mixture of on-site and off-site activities that seek to challenge participants physically and mentally, and provide a life changing learning experience for the expected 10,000 Scouts attending.

Scouts must be between the age of 11 and 14, while older Venturers can join in through leadership roles. There are also many opportunities for adult volunteers to join, meeting certain criteria.

To find out more: www.ajwa.com.au

Darlington Scouts are open to boys and girls, comprising four sections:

- Joey Scouts (age 5-8)
- Cub Scouts (age 8-11)
- Scouts (age 11-14)
- Venturer Scouts (Age 14-18)

The sections usually meet at the Kathleen Skipsey Hall on Glen Road, Darlington, in a lovely bush setting on the creek line, with a fire pit and ample opportunity for getting amongst nature.

The Scouts meet weekly during school terms, and there are often extended weekend and school holidays camps, hikes and other activities on offer.

If you have a child that may be interested in coming along, you can have a trial few visits before making a commitment. We do ask parents to take turns in helping with activities, and this may be at their weekly session, or it may be helping with a camp or other weekend activity.

Contact membership@darlingtonscouts.com, or www.darlingtonscouts.com, or find our Facebook page

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ONE WAY OR THE OTHER

When reading my bible this morning one of the notes I wrote down was "Don't let anyone tell you that it is easy to follow God – it will cost you your life." I then contemplated the irony of the statement. Most Christians would understand what I was saying, but if isolated and read out of context, it becomes ironic because not following God is what costs a person their life. I then got to thinking about life and death. There is much written about these two words in the scriptures... and then my thoughts jumped to juxtapositions and how, from beginning to end, the bible is thoroughly filled with them. I soon found myself thinking of how good it would be to talk about this with my high school English literature teacher. Dear Mrs Ramsey, who I thoroughly frustrated for the two years I was taught by her, as I was a disinterested and disengaged student - I didn't enjoy English, I disliked learning in general, to be frank. It made me smile to think she would barely recognise me now as I have since become a lover of books, words, logic, rhetoric and believe it or not now I even love learning.

But I digress, two early morning coffees and the Word of God in front of me always sends me on a treasure hunt and a myriad of different thoughts and contemplations. So back to business... juxtapositions... my mind was suddenly filled with the realisation that the the Bible is saturated with them. For example, light and dark, good and evil, life and death, love and hate, war and peace, blessings and curses, few and many, asleep and awake, justice and mercy, humility and pride, enslaved and redeemed etc. (I wrote a lot more... but you get the point.)

The bible constantly juxtaposes two ways of living so that we can clearly see the contrast between them. If two experiences, lived in contrast to one another, are constantly on display throughout the breadths and depths of scripture, then maybe it's of utmost importance to God that we see the outcomes of one way in comparison to the other. God lays out very distinctly and succinctly that life lived in relationship with Him, (Him dwelling with us and us dwelling with Him.) will be one way and life without Him will be entirely another. Don't critique me too much... I didn't listen in English... but surely, it's black and white (pardon the juxtaposition ●). It seems to me that God juxtaposes two situations consistently so that we can see with clarity there is distinct difference between them. I don't think he does it just to emphasise something – I think He does it to expose truth. He is imploring us to examine ourselves to see which 'way' we are walking in. He is willing us to put His Words to the test, if we would choose to genuinely examine ourselves in light of what He says.

When God displays the contrasting actions and outcomes it is because He desires to draw us out of one of these ways to place us into experiencing and living the other. He wants us to live not die, to be wise not foolish, to love not hate, to be redeemed not enslaved and so on and so forth.

It's simple, in many respects, but the depths and breadths of it are deep and wondrous and are worthy of being experienced. God is love and He has set the example for how love should be, and anything described as love, that doesn't have Him in it, is not love. But how can we understand the difference if we haven't experienced them both? The long and the short of it is that God knows that love, without Himself being the source of it, is in direct contrast to His love. It is like He is saying "I am love – don't take the chance that you think you know what love is until you have experienced what I know it to be." What if love is concealed until Love is revealed and until then we only have a counterfeit that is not even a shadow of what is available to us.
Adam and Eve experienced having life and losing life – they had lived in both conditions. But to the world they still looked very much alive, after all we are born into the actual condition they were experiencing, and people look alive, don't they? But God is life. Should anyone take the chance that they think they know what life is without experiencing it as what God knows it to be? God is the giver and source of life – if His provision is absent then we only have, once again, a counterfeit not even a shadow of what is available to us.

When I wrote the note about it not being easy being a Christian, I was reading about Caleb and it was said of him "He wholly followed the Lord.' The first note I wrote in the morning said "Let wholly become my way. Let all else fall away. ALL ELSE!!! Then strengthen me as it falls and let my feet stand firm on the foundation of the Rock while wholly becomes my way." In Christianity, we learn to willingly bear the cost and pick up our cross. We seek to live in God's ways, we choose to shed what 'we know' to trust Him with what 'He knows'. There can be a genuine battle at hand when we choose to let go of the lesser even when we know it means we gain the more.

Adam lived in the perfect provision of the 'more', but he chose to reach out in disobedience and he gained the lesser. Adam looked to the desires of His own heart rather than trusting the desires that the heart of God had for him, and he lost all that he had known. Scripture regularly uses juxtapositions to display that God's ways are not man's ways. One powerful example of this is at the crucifixion. We have three men side by side being crucified. Each there because they followed the desires of their own hearts. Two followed the desires they had for themselves and the other followed the desire He had for you, for me and for all. The heart of man and the heart of God juxtaposed and on full display for all to see.

Which leads me to sharing my last note from the morning "May we only ever reach out for what Adam first had.... what could we possibly have to lose".

Sandra Parish

WHAT'S ON:

- Sunday service 9.30am
- Lunches Monthly
- Prayer Meetings Wed 8.30am
- Bible Studies weekly

Darlington Christian Fellowship

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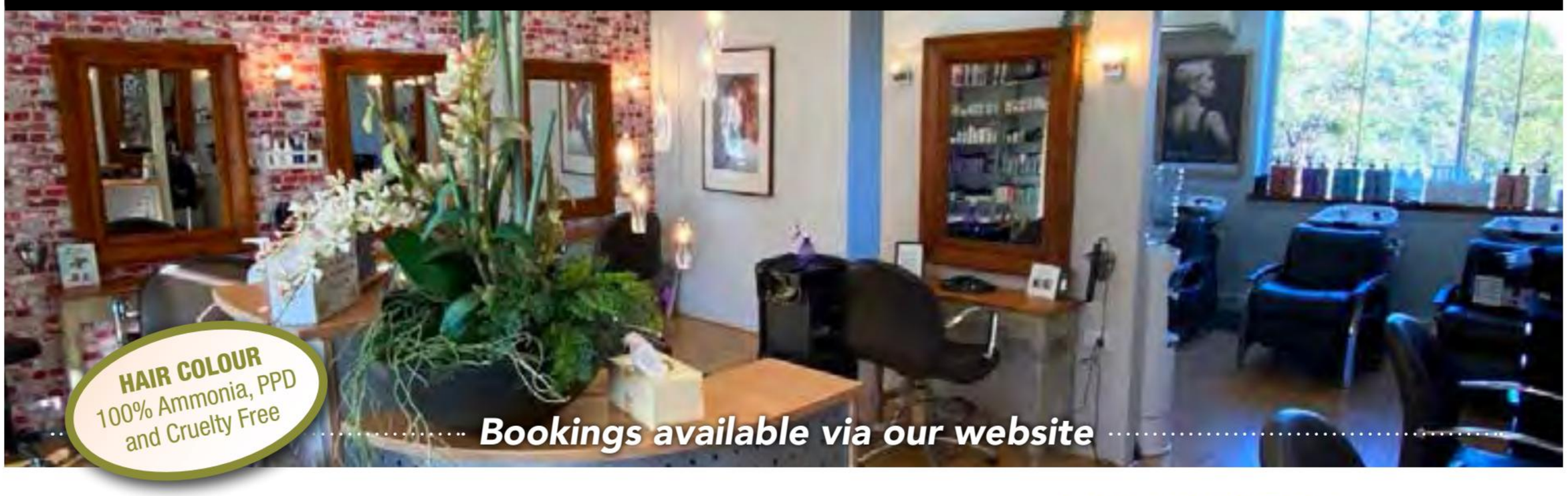

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LET THE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

Now that the joy, food, carols and candles that speak of Christmas have morphed into summer holidays, outdoor cinemas and hot weather malaise it's time to turn our attention to the new school year - and one or two other things.
The people-who-think-ahead at St Cuthbert's are planning ways of celebrating the centenary of our much loved "little stone church". The foundation stone was laid on 13 September 1924 and the building was consecrated on 1 March 1925. There are great plans for those six months beginning with a garden party in the church grounds on SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER. Save the date and let any distant friends with connections to St Cuthbert's know what's afoot.

MAINLY MUSIC RESUMES @ 9AM ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE PARISH CENTRE.
DO JOIN US FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF SINGING, PRANCING, PLAYING AND MORNING TEA. ALL MOTHERS, FATHERS, CARERS, GRANDPARENTS AND PRE-SCHOOLERS ARE WELCOME - AS IS ANYONE I'VE OMITTED TO MENTION.

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Darlington Community Garden (DCG)

In and around the Darlington Community Garden

The Darlington Community Garden (DCG), wishes the members of our Darlington community and indeed, our global community a happy, safe and abundant 2024.

Last year, DCG members were busy facilitating events like nature play for our children, installing mosaic tiles under the arbour, growing food for all to share, produce swap, gardening around Darlington and so much more. Susie Itzstein, kept the Darlington community informed of all DCG activities in her monthly articles for the Darlington Review. Thank you, Susie, for doing such a wonderful job.

When crowds get together to have fun, it can get somewhat messy at times, but not at last years Christmas carols. Here's a message from our compost and recycling warrior, Sue Lennard, "Christmas carolling must be really thirsty work judging by the empties in our Darlington Community Garden CFC 10c bottle bag on the wheelie bins at the oval... good to see everyone was well hydrated though. Thanks to everyone who used the green mesh bags - every 10c helps."

The Darlington Community Garden was awarded a $10,000 grant as part of the Dept of Communities Community Garden Grants Programme. Education is a key component of this grant, so we will be facilitating a series of gardening workshops in 2024. We are grateful to our Vice Chair, Alison Atkinson, for writing the grant submission; such a great effort. Our gratitude, also goes to the Department of Communities for this generous grant.

We waved goodbye to 2023 in style, as we celebrated the year's achievements with a beautiful long table dinner under the arbour. We ate delicious food, told jokes, laughed and even played a game. By the end of the night, we decided that DCG needs to hold more long table dinners. So, look out for our next long table dinner!

January, 2024, and our garden has undergone significant earth works to create our beautiful creek line and mud pit for our creative and mud-play loving children. Our deepest gratitude to Kylie Brinfield from Garden Insight for the beautiful design and to Tony Green from Think Green Landscapes and Waterscapes for the earth works and landscaping. Kylie and Tony worked this project pro bono. The garden is fortunate to have committed members who volunteered their time to prepare and monitored the sit while work was in progress. Well done team!

(Left) Mike and Tony and (right) Kylie David and Charles.

The produce from our beautiful garden is so delicious and nutritious, we really enjoyed the watermelon on those hot Birak afternoons. Please enjoy the produce from our communal garden and remember to share the bounty.

Sally enjoying watermelon from the garden.

We are exiting the first summer, Birak where the early mornings and evenings were cool and refreshing with some quenching rain. Bunuru, is the second summer and the hottest season with exceptional heat and no rain. Country, rests during this hot and dry season. Gardeners, need to focus on garden maintenance, tool care, garden hydration, protecting plants and soil from extreme heat, composting, worm farming and preparing garden beds for planting in cool April, the season of Djeran.

Take rest, care for yourself and, keep yourself and your garden well hydrated.

Charles Snelleksz-Mathelot

SATURDAY 9am or MONDAY 5pm GARDEN BUSY BEES
SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER (2nd Sunday of month)

From 5pm PLANT & PRODUCE SWAP - Bring produce, seeds, cuttings, plants, herbs, jams, etc & plate of food & drink to share.

From 6pm - DRUMMING CIRCLE & Yarning. Drums provided.

NEW MEMBERS

www.darlingtoncommunitygarden.org.au/join-us-1

Keep in touch and have your say on our DCG FACEBOOK page www.facebook.com/groups/218148335647263

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FACEBOOK

Friends of Darlington Station Reserve (FODS)

Karrak Kubby on the Station Reserve

Look up as you pass the huge Lemon-Scented Gum (Corymbia/ Eucalytus Citriodora) half way down the Station Reserve and you will see the cleverly camouflage - painted cockatoo nest box donated by two young wildlife warriors and erected recently by David Kozak *(photo left)***.**

The box is the product of a Helena College Year 5 Natural Sciences project by Chloe Kozak and Lilly Morris *(photo right)* as their solution to their identified challenge of loss of habitat causing lack of possible nesting sites for our local cockatoos. Imagined possible ad-ons include a feeding tube for honky nuts and cocky-voice activated access (young Lilly wants to work in IT!) The girls funded their project by selling cupcakes and were then also able to donate money to some local wildlife charities. They made their own T-shirts shown in their photo.

In the meantime we FODS continue with our summer watering schedule every two weeks until we resume 'real work' after Easter. We need volunteers of course so please think whether you could spare two hours every second Sunday morning from Easter to the end of October and contact us or come down when we are there. Jane can be contacted on 0477 987 047.

HAPPY GARDENING in 2024 to you all.

Diane

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Term 1: Mon 29 Jan — Thu 28 Mar 2024

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Day	Term Classes	Start	Finish	Class Cost Per Term
Monday AM	Upholstery Mod, Trad & Auto	9:00am	12:00pm	$100.00
Monday AM	Patchwork Sewing	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Monday AM	Pottery Wheel Beginners	9:00am	11:30am	$120.00
Monday AM	Oil & Acrylic Painting	9:00am	11:30am	$120.00
Monday AM	Woodwork - Own Projects	9:00am	11:30am	$120.00
Monday PM	Uthando Doll Project	12:45pm	3:15pm	Free
Monday PM	Mixed Media Masterclass	12:45pm	3:15pm	$130.00
Monday PM	Woodwork - Own Projects	12:45pm	3:15pm	$120.00
Tuesday AM	Chair Yoga	9:30am	11:00am	$100.00
Tuesday AM	Art Journaling	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Tuesday AM	Wood Turning	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Tuesday PM	Yoga Gentle Afternoon	12:45pm	2:15pm	$100.00
Wednesday	Bahasa Indonesia Intermediate	9:30am	11:30am	$100.00
Wednesday	Clay Sculpture Group - Intermediate	9:00am	11:30am	$120.00
Wednesday	Leadlight for Beginners	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Wednesday	Sewing - Morning Session	9.30am	12:00pm	$100.00
Wednesday	Leadlight - Intermediate	12:45pm	3:15pm	$100.00
Wednesday	Wood Turning	12:45pm	3:15pm	$100.00
Wednesday	Sewing - Afternoon Session	12:30pm	3:00pm	$100.00
Wednesday	Clay Sculpture - Studio Time Only - Casual Class	12:45pm	3:15pm	$12.00 / Class
Thursday AM	Leadlight - Advanced	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Thursday AM	Mosaics	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Thursday AM	Wood Turning Beginners	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Thursday AM	Pottery Wheel - All Levels	9:00am	11:30am	$120.00
Thursday PM	Leadlight for Beginners	12:45pm	3:15pm	$100.00
Thursday PM	Traditional Upholstery	12:45pm	3:15pm	$100.00
Friday AM	Creative Writing	9:00am	11:30pm	$100.00
Friday AM	Ceramics Hand Built Introduction	9:00am	12:00pm	$120.00
Friday AM	Hatha Yoga	10:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Friday AM	Rigid Heddle Loom Weaving	9:00am	11:30am	$100.00
Friday PM	Watercolour for Beginners	12:30pm	3:00pm	$130.00
Friday PM	½ Hour Reiki Sessions—by appointment only.	12:00pm	2:00pm	$10.00

Day	Workshops	Start	Finish	Cost
2nd Saturday each month	Felting Group	10:00am	3:00pm	$10.00 per session

Weekend Reiki & Reflexology wellness sessions $35.00 —Phone 9295 1688 / 0422 981 698 for appointments.

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